

**Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc.**  
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**Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England**  
**In support of the Social Services Block Grant**  
**Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly**  
**Monday, October 1, 2012**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Connecticut's allocation of the Social Services Block Grant, which includes a longstanding commitment to helping low income women become independent through the planning and spacing of pregnancies. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) receives \$915,061 annually in Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) funds, through the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS).

The grant allows us to provide reproductive health care services to uninsured women and men living at or below 250% of the federal poverty level. The services are offered on a sliding fee scale that is based on income and family size. No one is turned away for inability to pay. By enabling PPSNE and its delegate agencies to offer below-cost care to uninsured patients, DSS is helping women and men prevent unintended pregnancy, HIV infection, cervical cancer and other conditions that might cause them to lose their job, drop out of school and fall into poverty. SSBG monies subsidize health care visits at 12 PPSNE health centers across the state, in addition to three delegate agencies (Fair Haven Community Health Center, New Haven, Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, New Haven and Community Health Services, Hartford).

Last year, PPSNE and its delegate agencies served 19,818 patients statewide with close to 27,000 reproductive health care and family planning visits. SSBG funds subsidize annual gynecological exams, birth control counseling and management visits, gynecological medical visits (repeat Pap tests, UTI treatment, and yeast infections), testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and HIV testing. SSBG funds enable PPSNE and its delegates to offer a broad range of contraceptive options to low income women, including oral contraceptives, injectable methods, the hormonal patch, NuvaRing, intrauterine contraception and hormonal implants.

Of the project's total new patients, 83% were female and 17% were male. Ten percent of SSBG patients were ages seventeen or under. Twenty percent of the patients were African-American/Black, 53% were White, 20% were Hispanic, 2% were Asian or Pacific Islander, and 6% were multi-racial.

Planned Parenthood is proud to serve these patients and to offer these services. We are also proud to serve as the fiduciary agent for this grant and other state and federal family planning program dollars in Connecticut. We appreciate the confidence of DSS and strive at all times to deliver a quality service that meets the goals of the grant.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of the SSBG program.